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*Cyprus: The confrontation between Greece and Turkey over Cyprus remains dangerous with the military forces of both in a high state of readiness.

Ankara continues to insist that the removal of the Greek "illegal" forces from Cyprus is basic to easing current tensions. Ankara informed the NATO secretary general that unless these troops leave the island, Turkey will land an equal number of troops to guarantee the "security rights, and freedom" of the Turkish Cypriots.

The Turkish foreign minister told the Canadian ambassador during a "depressing meeting" yesterday that withdrawal of the Greek troops is not a matter for negotiation and that the purpose of Ankara's note of 17 November to Athens should have been unmistakable to the Greeks. Athens has not yet responded to the note.

Newly-appointed Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis told Ambassador Talbot that no "ultimatum" on the troop withdrawal had been received from Ankara. Pipinelis outlined a three-stage plan for resolving the Cyprus problem and suggested that the question of the troops could be discussed during the second stage. He said that any ultimatum to withdraw the troops before tensions are calmed could lead to disaster.

Ambassador Hart in Ankara believes that Pipinelis' formula is unworkable and could lead to Turkish military action. According to the US defense attaché, arrangements for troop embarkation are complete.

In Greece preparations are continuing to develop a capability to respond in kind to any Turkish attack on Cyprus or Greece. Indications suggest that Athens will not engage in any preemptive action.

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The situation in Cyprus is generally quiet, although there have been some shooting incidents and a bomb explosion. Foreign diplomatic missions are studying plans for possible evacuation in the event of hostilities.

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Philippines: The Nacionalista Party of President Marcos has made a strong showing in the recent Philippine elections.

Nearly complete returns give Nacionalista candidates six of the eight Senate seats contested. A pro-administration independent and a Liberal took the remaining two. In other contests, the President's party captured about two thirds of the governorships, mayoralties, and other local offices.

The administration sustained two major setbacks. Former governor Aquino, a vigorous Liberal opponent of Marcos, won a Senate seat, and the US-baiting Liberal, Antonio Villegas, was re-elected mayor of Manila. The latter's opponent had been hand picked and vigorously supported by Marcos. The Aquino victory is being challenged by the Nacionalistas.

Marcos will have nominal control of the Senate, but the progress of his economic programs will depend in part on his ability to enforce party discipline. Philippine politicians frequently cross party lines for personal advancement. A shift by several Nacionalistas last January threw control of the Senate to the Liberals.

A more significant achievement than the Senatorial victories may well be the impressive Nacionalista gains in the provinces. Marcos' increased local control will be useful in implementing development projects and in mustering support for the 1969 presidential elections. Realizing this, Marcos spent far more effort campaigning for provincial candidates than for the Senate hopefuls who are elected at large.

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*Israel-Jordan: Israeli planes attacked Jordanian artillery and tanks this morning after firing broke out in the vicinity of the Karama refugee camp, where another cease-fire violation occurred yesterday. Firing was also reported in the area of the Umm Shurat Bridge. These represent the fifth exchange in four days and are an outgrowth of continued terrorist incidents in the West Bank and Israel. [redacted]

Congo (Kinshasa): Schramme's Katangan troops apparently will be evacuated from Rwanda to the Congo beginning today. The evacuation, using Congolese aircraft, may take several weeks. Efforts to move Schramme's mercenaries to Europe, on the other hand, still have made no significant progress. [redacted]

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Bulgaria: Moscow's decision to maintain its policy of refusing to extend hard currency credits to its socialist allies has compelled Bulgaria to redouble its efforts to promote exports to the West. [redacted]

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[redacted] party leader Zhivkov asked for such credits last September to pay off overdue short-term debts owed in the West. Bulgaria's need to earn hard currency probably accounts for the sharp upsurge in diplomatic and cultural contacts with the non-Communist world in recent months. [redacted]

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